1	2
Groundnut (in shell)	1220
Soyabean (Black)	775
Soyabean (Yellow)	865
Sunflower Seed	1170
Seasamum Seed	1300
Nigerseed	1025
Rapeseed/Mustard	1200
Toria	1165
Safflower	1200
Copra (milling)*	3300
Copra (ball)*	3550

*Copra (milling & ball) relates to the calendar year 2001.

It has recently been decided that MSP of masur (lentil) of fair average quality (FAQ) will also be fixed.

Challenges of globalisation and WTO competition

4591. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken to face up the challenges of the globalisation and WTO competition in Agriculture infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of India has recently announced National Agriculture Policy which addresses to the challenges arising out of economic liberalisation and globalization. The National Agriculture Policy seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agricultural development, promote value addition, secure a fair standard of living for farmers and agricultural workers and effectively face the challenges of the new era. A detailed action plan for implementation of the National Agriculture Policy is being developed through inter-ministerial interaction. In the meanwhile,

several measures have been initiated to enhance the competitiveness of Indian agriculture and to enhance the efficiency of agriculture and increase production and productivity, which lie at the core of the strategy to face the challenges of globalization. Some of the recent initiatives are listed below:

- Launching of the Macro Management Mode to promote region-specific agricultural planning and development.
- Launching of a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern Region.
- Formulation of a programme for On-Farm Water Management to exploit ground-water resources in Eastern India.
- Operationalization of a Technology Mission on Cotton.
- Effective implementation of the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
- Implementation of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.
- Increasing the availability of farm credit through the Kisan Credit Card Scheme and by ensuring that 18% of net bank credit is earmarked for agriculture.
- Expansion of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and lowering of the interest rate.
- Provision of capital subsidy for construction, modernization and expansion of storages and cold storages.
- Formulation of a new subsidy-linked scheme for establishment of rural godowns.
- Promotion of the food processing industry and value addition in agriculture through excise exemptions and other interventions.
- Provision of a facilitative climate for agriculture exports, *inter alia*, through establishment of agri-exports zones.
- Reforms in seeds sector legislation and procedures to provide a facilitative climate for investment, besides enhancing seed replacement rates.

While initiating a package of measures to enhance economic efficiency and competitiveness of domestic agriculture, Government are committed to protecting Indian farmers from dumping of agricultural surpluses by developed countries, as well as from other adverse consequences of the WTO regime. Several Instruments to this end are available at our disposal, such as import duties, which have been comprehensively enhanced during the past year, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, safeguard measures and sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards which can be used to protect domestic interests.

- During the on-going negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture of WTO, food security of our people, protection of domestic farmers farmers and their livelihood, as well as export maximization, are the guiding principles.

Decline in Agricultural Production

4592. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in both agriculture production as well as foodgrains production estimated during 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to reverse the declining trend in agriculture as well as foodgrains production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The production of foodgrains and other important crops for 2000-2001, according to advance estimates as on 12.04.2001, *vis-a-vis* the final estimates for 1999-2000 is given as under: